ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

PRESIDENT: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. K. C. Karunakaran to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the serious situation caused by the misleading publication in the "Madras Mail" of the 24th January regarding the fumigation of rice imported from Cochin. I have seen that. I do not know whether after hearing what has to be said on the matter, the honourable member will pursue it. There is no doubt that a note has appeared purporting to be from 'Our Staff Correspondent' at Ernakulam which is, I suppose, what the honourable member is referring to. That is a purposely misleading statement. The note reads thus.

> "Hitherto, rice exports from Cochin were fumigated by the Cochin Government as a precaution against plague infection. Following the outbreak of plague in Alleppey and Quilon the Travancore Government decided to refumigate rice imports from Cochin."

A careful omission is made of the prevalence of plague in Cochin and the suggestion of the Staff Correspondent is that the Travancore Government fumigate rice in Mattancherry because there is plague at Alleppey and Quilon, rather a difficult thing to reconcile. Apparently it is done with a purpose.

> "The limited staff of the Travancore Government could not cope with the large volume of traffic and, therefore, there was delay which resulted in hardships to merchants.....
>
> "On the intervention of the Resident a conference was held at Arukutty.....
>
> "A joint certificate by the Travancore and Cochin health authorities to goods fumigated will be issued and they will be allowed to proceed without re-examination at the frontier."

The whole note is inaccurate from beginning to end. The Government will take necessary steps to bring to the notice of the management of the 'Madras Mail' that it is not befitting the dignity of that paper to publish such matters. I trust that similar things will not arise hereafter. I think the 'Madras Mail' seems to be rather badly served. In the same issue of the paper, dealing with the Quilon arrest the paper states:

> "It is learnt that the arrest was based on C. I. D. reports that he was carrying on correspondence with the leaders of the Travancore State Congress who are now outside the State, and helping the State Congress movement in the State."

The person arrested is guilty of dangerous communistic activities, and his arrest has nothing to do with the report of the C. I. D. solely. Apparently the 'Madras Mail' seems to be badly served by its correspondents. In these circumstances, I think the honourable member will not press his motion.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): In view of the statement of the Dewan-President, I do not wish to press this motion. But in doing so, I would like to submit before the House one or two very important points which not only concern the whole country but concern particularly the mercantile community at Alleppey. In the last paragraph of the note appearing in the 'Madras Mail' it is said that 'the question

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of enforcing restrictions on imports from Travancore in view of the announcement of the outbreak of plague in Quilon and Alleppey is now being considered by the Cochin Government".

PRESIDENT: Order, order. If that paragraph is of a piece with the rest of the note, I would consider it not worth referring to because they contain so many mis-statements, and I decline to believe that the Cochin Government would have authorised the staff correspondent at Ernakulam to report what is undoubtedly incorrect. I do not think honourable members need take serious note of this.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN: There is an ulterior purpose in putting this paragraph.

PRESIDENT: I have already said so, that the whole thing was done with the definite purpose of disparaging the Travancore Government.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): I rise to a point of order whether such things can be discussed as an adjournment motion because it must relate to something for which the Government is responsible.

PRESIDENT: Government is supposed to be responsible for the limited staff not coping with the matter of fumigation. Therefore it is open to honourable members to point out that Government should not keep such a limited staff and cause inconvenience all round and that is the suggestion sought to be made in the article. That is the reason why the adjournment motion is pressed.

Does the honourable member press the motion?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN: No, Sir.

DISCUSSION REGARDING RECRUITMENT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: I beg to submit that in view of three or four important Bills pending consideration of the House I may be permitted to proceed with the Bills before the House takes up the regular business as on the agenda for the day.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that any apprehension need be entertained in regard to the taking up of legislative business. I am told, and I hope anticipations will be fulfilled, that discussion regarding the report of the Public Service Commissioner may not take long. In any case, I shall wait till lunch time and if by that time the discussions are not over, I shall then ask the House whether they will consent to your dealing with the legislative measures.

Yesterday this House went into committee and I understand that certain resolutions have been drafted. I leave it to this honourable House to decide whether they will resume their labours in committee and pass some kind of resolution and bring it back to the House or whether on the basis of what has happened in committee yesterday, the resolution will be moved in the House. It is open to the honourable members to adopt whichever course they choose.

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